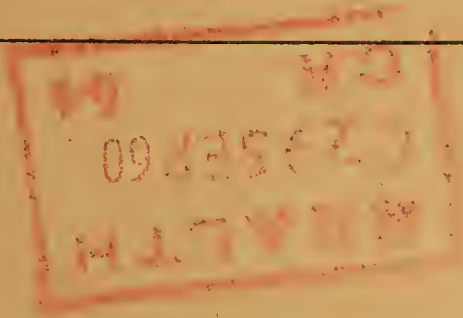


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Borough of Louth

Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

The Year 1959



BOROUGH OF LOUTH

1959—60

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL :

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Alderman J. H. Starsmore, J.P.

DEPUTY MAYOR

Councillor R. H. Brackenbury

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Councillor W. Patchett

VICE-CHAIRMAN :

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HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE COMMITTEE

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Councillor R. Wilkinson

WALTER HOLT, LL.M.

Solicitor

TOWN CLERK

BOROUGH OF LOUTH

Public Health Officers :

Medical Officer of Health :

W. J. KERRIGAN, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., L.M., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector :

J. A. H. BROCKLEBANK, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Public Health Inspector :

E. A. LAND, M.A.P.H.I.

Surveyor :

J. C. BARBER, A.M.Inst. M. & CyE.

Housing Manager :

L. COPLAND, A.I.Hsg.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF LOUTH.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report dealing with health matters and the operation of the environmental services of the Borough during 1959.

The relationship of live births to deaths at 178 to 151 was an improvement on the previous year as the result of fewer deaths. The standardised live birth rate remained at practically the same level as the previous year but was lower than the national rate, which was an unusual happening associated with this and the previous year. On the other hand, the standardised death rate was less than that for the country as a whole. While both the still birth and infant mortality rates are expected to show a gradual annual decline for the country as a whole, they are subject to certain yearly fluctuations in a small community such as this, which affects their assessment worth for comparative purposes. This year, the infant mortality rate was the same as the national figure, but our still birth rate was higher.

In the body of the report, tabular and other information is given about the mortality of the year, the pattern of which varies little from that of recent years, when about three quarters of the deaths have occurred at the more advanced ages. This year, 77% of the total happened after the age of 65 years. There was, however, a relative increase in the deaths from cancer and coronary thrombosis compared with the previous year, but this was offset by fewer deaths resulting from some other diseases, notably from respiratory diseases and accidents.

The heartening response during the year towards obtaining protection against the widening range of infectious disease encourages the thought that the preventable diseases will make rare appearances in the local lists of the future. The Borough figures in the field of prevention have always been most satisfactory, though there was a falling off in the past couple of years owing to poliomyelitis vaccination demands. The vaccination programme, however, has settled into its normal routine so that parents may now avail of the best and easiest way of securing for their children the benefits of these wide measures of prevention by consulting either their own or the Clinic doctor.

The senior public health inspector has dealt in detail with most of the matters pertaining to the environmental services and the attention given them during the year, which is augmented by the surveyor's comments on progress made on sewerage and sewage disposal problems. The housing manager furnished information about rehousing problems, in a year when there was not yet any completions of new Council houses, and on the obligations to be met in the future in housing matters.

Though the year passed with little material progress being achieved in so many matters of public health importance, such as the filtration-softening treatment of the mains water supply, sewerage and sewage disposal necessities, and the provision of a suitable swimming bath, there was, at least, the promise of the firm intention to erect housing units with a warden service, suitable for old people. The choice of site for these dwellings is a happy one, but other acclamations will require to await the speed of their completion.

It may be gathered from remarks under the head of slum clearance that all of us who have special knowledge of housing conditions in the district—the senior public health inspector, the housing manager and myself—which permits us to speak with authority on the subject, consider that the first phase of the slum clearance programme, now nearing completion, can only be regarded as the prelude to a further planned attack on the number of sub-standard houses remaining. It may be that owners of tenanted houses, knowing the likely alternative, could be persuaded by a personal approach to ransom the property by the financial encouragement available from Improvement Grants. The latter scheme, from which so much was hoped but from which so little resulted in the case of tenanted houses, may have partially failed because of the lack of direct approach to the owners for helpful discussions on the nature of the work required and the financial aid available to upgrade the property and encourage the undertaking as a sensible and practical proposition.

I consider an approach on these lines in appropriate cases should be worthwhile, though it would also require the Council to give very sympathetic consideration to any cases brought to their notice for grant aid.

Questions relating to food hygiene were kept as much to the forefront as possible by seasonable poster displays, the distribution of literature on the subject, and, best of all, by the more frequent visits paid by the public health inspectors to food premises. The results of the laboratory examinations of food samples indicate the measure of success achieved by these endeavours.

I am pleased to have this opportunity of expressing my gratitude for the valuable help given by Mr. Brocklebank and Mr. Land during the year. Their interest and keen spirit have contributed largely to the success of the year's work in the environmental field. I also wish to thank the other members of the Corporation staff for assistance very readily given on occasions when their advice was sought. To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committees, with whom my duties were largely concerned, I am very grateful for the interest and co-operation which I was privileged to enjoy during this and other years.

W. J. KERRIGAN.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

Social Conditions and General Statistics.

Area of Borough in Acres	....	....	....	....	2,812
Registrar General's estimated mid year Home Population	....				11,470
Density per acre	....	....	....	....	4.07
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1959	....	....			3,794
Rateable Value of inhabited houses	....	....	....		£75,783
Estimated Product of Penny Rate	....	....	....	....	£554

VITAL STATISTICS

(Note—Figures in brackets show corresponding rates for
England and Wales).

BIRTHS

(a) Live	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	171	101	70
Illegitimate	7	3	4
	<hr/> 178	<hr/> 104	<hr/> 74
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population			15.5
Standardised Birth Rate for comparative purposes (comparability factor 1.03)			15.96 (16.5)

(b) Still Births

Legitimate	5	2	3
Illegitimate	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 3
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population		0.44	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births		27.3	(20.7)

DEATHS

	Total	Male	Female
	151	76	75
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population			13.16
Standardised Death Rate (comparability factor 0.81)		10.66	(11.6)

Infant Deaths

(a) Under 12 months	Male	Female
Legitimate	2	2
Illegitimate	<hr/>	<hr/>
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Total Live Births		22.5 (22.0)
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Legitimate Births		23.4
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Illegitimate Births		Nil
(b) Under 4 weeks	Male	Female
Legitimate	2	1
Illegitimate	<hr/>	<hr/>
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births		16.85

(c) Under 1 week	Male	Female
Legitimate	2	1
Illegitimate	—	—
Relation of Illegitimate Live Births to Total Live Births		3.93%
Maternal Deaths (including abortion)		Nil

Infant Deaths—Causes of and Ages at Death

Birth Injury	Age
Fulminating Respiratory Infection	4 Hours
Prematurity	5 months
Prematurity	18 hours
	1 Day

Causes of Death	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	—
2. Tuberculosis—other	—	—
3. Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	5	2
4. Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	3	—
5. Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	—	2
6. Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	—	2
7. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	9	5
8. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1
9. Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	12
10. Coronary disease, angina	12	11
11. Hypertension with heart disease	3	3
12. Other heart disease	11	13
13. Other circulatory disease	6	6
14. Influenza	1	—
15. Pneumonia	2	1
16. Bronchitis	3	3
17. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	3
18. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—
19. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1
20. Nephritis and neophrosis	1	—
21. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
22. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	10
23. Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	—
24. All other accidents	1	—
25. Suicide	2	—
	<u>76</u>	<u>75</u>

Table 1. Ages at Death for 1959

Ages in o/r Years	1/5	5/15	15/25	25/35	35/45	45/55	55/65	65/75	75/85	85+	Total	
Deaths	4	1	—	1	1	—	12	16	39	55	22	—151

Table 2. Table showing ages at death during the past 5 years and the averages for that period compared with those for 1959.

Year	0/1	1/5	5/15	15/25	25/35	35/45	45/55	55/65	65/75	75/85	85+
1958	4	2	—	2	—	2	6	18	52	72	28
1957	5	1	—	1	—	5	8	10	26	40	21
1956	5	—	—	—	—	8	4	18	33	57	31
1955	4	1	1	—	1	7	13	10	30	55	22
1954	5	2	2	2	1	3	8	15	27	43	17
Average numbers	4.6	1.2	0.6	1.0	0.4	5.0	7.8	14.2	33.6	53.4	23.8
1959 figures	4	1	—	1	1	—	12	16	39	55	22

Table 3. Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms during 1959.

Ages in Years	Under 40	40/45	45/50	50/55	55/60	60/65	65/70	70/75	75+	Total
Cases	1	—	1	1	2	4	4	5	10	—28

Anatomical Sites of Malignant Neoplasms.

	Male	Female	Total
Stomach	5	2	7
Lung, Bronchus	3	—	3
Breast	—	2	2
Uterus	—	2	2
Other sites	9	5	14
	—	—	—
	17	11	28
	—	—	—

The total deaths, though somewhat higher than the average for the previous five years, were 35 less than those for 1958, when the number was unusually high.

Of the deaths for the year, circulatory diseases, other than from coronary causes, accounted for 21% of the total; diseases of the heart for 20%; malignant neoplasms of all types for 19%; and coronary disease for 15%. The corresponding percentages the previous year were 25, 17, 12 and 12, in that order.

From Table 2 it is interesting to note that the deaths under the age of 65 years were similar in number to the average of those for the antecedent five years, but there were variations in the figures under the particular age groupings. The increase during the year affected mainly the 45/55 year section, due to the deaths from heart and circulatory diseases of all types which occurred within these years which, however, was more than compensated by the smaller number of fatalities recorded under the age of 45 years.

Compared with recent years, the diseases which showed increases in the death table included those from malignant growths, affecting the stomach chiefly, and coronary thrombosis. Deaths from tuberculosis and other diseases of the respiratory system were gratifyingly fewer, as were fatalities resulting from accidents of all kinds.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities.

One is pleased to have the opportunity of paying this annual tribute to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Lincoln, in the charge of Dr. J. M. Croll, which rendered the accustomed valuable service by dealing with the various routine and special samples submitted in the course of our year's work. The samples and specimens examined during the year totalled 445, and related to routine safety checks on water and particular articles of food. In addition, certain animal food products were investigated for the presence of organisms liable to cause food poisoning, because of the not infrequent association of these products with food poisoning outbreaks.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

The following Clinic services are provided by the Lindsey County Council and the Regional Hospital Board towards meeting local needs in the preventive and treatment branches of medicine.

A—Clinics at the County Council's premises, 32 Queen Street, Louth.

School Children :

Each Wednesday 2 to 4 p.m.

Child Welfare :

(1) Child Welfare. Each Tuesday 2 to 4 p.m.

(2) Toddlers. Bi-monthly. Tuesdays (2nd & 4th) 10 a.m. to 12 noon

(3) Diphtheria Immunisation. Tuesdays (2nd & 4th) 2 p.m.

Ante-Natal Mothercraft :

Each Thursday. 2.30 to 4.30 p.m.

Dental : By appointment.

Diphtheria Immunisation (school children) and Ultra Violet Light Sessions by appointment.

B—At the Local Hospitals.

County Hospital, Louth Out Patient Clinics

Louth & District Hospital Out Patient Clinics

Ophthalmology—Monday 10 a.m.

—

Ear, Nose and Throat—Monday 2 p.m.

—

Ante-Natal—Monday 2.30 p.m.

—

Dental—Monday 3 p.m.

—

Genito-Orinary—Monday 11.30 a.m.

—

Psychiatry—Tuesday 10 a.m.

—

Surgical—Tuesday 2.30 p.m. and

Monday 2.30 p.m. and

Friday 2.30 p.m.

Thursday 10.30 a.m.

Chest—Wednesday 9 a.m.

—

Paediatric—Wednesday 11.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Orthopaedic—Wednesday 9.30 and

—

Friday 9.30 a.m.

—

Radiotherapy—Alternate Thursdays 11 a.m.

—

Gynaecology—Thursdays 2 p.m.

—

Venereology—Thursdays 2 p.m.

—

Medical—Thursdays 10 a.m. and

Friday 10 a.m.

—

Dermatology—Friday 2 p.m.

—

School Eye Clinic—1st & 3rd Tuesday 10 a.m.

—

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases other than Tuberculosis during 1959.

Disease	Cases Notified	Case rates per 1,000 of estimated population
Measles	69	6.01
Whooping Cough	1	0.09
Scarlet Fever	2	0.18
Pneumonia	1	0.09
Meningococcal Meningitis	1	0.09
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	1	0.09
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	*16.4
Total	78	*per 1,000 Total (Live and Still Births)

Apart from the measles cases, which were limited to the first four months of the year, the other notifications appeared only in such numbers as to be reminders of their existence. This is particularly true of whooping cough, the single case of which, together with its scanty appearance on recent lists, suggests that this menace of childhood is now being successfully controlled by vaccination measures which, judging by the response mentioned elsewhere in the report, are being most sensibly availed of by parents.

The case of poliomyelitis referred to an adult visitor who arrived here suffering from the disease and was immediately transferred to the Isolation Hospital. The meningitis infection was a mild one of a type which seldom occurs these days. As usual the cases of puerperal infection were notified from local hospitals and only one of these was a local resident.

PROPHYLAXIS MEASURES AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH, SMALLPOX AND TETANUS.

(a) Diphtheria Immunisation.

Under 5 Years	5-14 years	Booster Doses
8	19	181

(b) **Form of Prophylaxis**

Age in years	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total
Diphtheria and Whooping Cough	7	17	42	3	—	1	—	70
Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough	57	64	1	2	1	1	—	126
Diphtheria and Tetanus	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Whooping Cough	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	4
Whooping Cough and Tetanus	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	68	84	43	5	1	2	—	203

(c) **Smallpox.**

Age in years	0/1	1/4	5/14	15+	Total
Vaccination	55	59	9	15	138
Re-Vaccination	—	—	1	15	16

(d) **Tetanus.**

Age in years	0/1	1/4	5/14	15+	Total
Vaccination	—	1	—	—	1
Booster	—	—	—	—	—

In last year's report, I expressed concern at the local decline in the numbers receiving treatment against infectious diseases other than poliomyelitis, but I am also glad to note that I anticipated a return to the satisfactory normal when the immediate demands of vaccination against poliomyelitis had been met. Such confidence in the good sense of Louth-
parents has, indeed, been fully justified by the excellent response during the year to secure protection for the children against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and smallpox. The extent of the improvement in prophylaxis measures may be gauged from the following summary of children treated, with which the contrasting figures for 1958 are shown in brackets.

I am indebted to Dr. Cormac, County Medical Officer of Health, for kindly supplying the foregoing figures :—

Diphtheria

	Primary treatments.		Booster Injections	
	Under 5 years	Over 5 years		
	204 (59)	21 (9)	181	(94)
Whooping Cough	201 (54)			
Tetanus	130 (27)			
Small-Pox	138 (55)			

As will be noted from the County returns, the choice of combined vaccines, which permits of two or three separate vaccines being used in the same injection to confer simultaneous protection against the particular diseases, was popularly availed of, and was no doubt mainly responsible for the excellence of the year's results. It is, of course, sensible procedure for parents to obtain for their children as wide a range of protection against preventable diseases as possible, and the simplest manner of doing this is by taking advantage of the combined vaccines. The time may not be far distant when poliomyelitis vaccine may be an additional inclusion in the combination made available, but this has not yet progressed farther than the trial stage.

I regret not to be in a position to quote figures regarding the local response to poliomyelitis vaccination, as I am informed by the County Medical Officer of Health that the prescribed method of recording the returns makes it impracticable to supply this information to the individual County districts—which, indeed, is understandable in view of the enormity of the segregation task involved.

B.C.G. Vaccination.

Vaccination against tuberculosis continued to be offered under the County Council scheme, but the age group eligible was extended to embrace children of 13 years and upward who still attended school, as well as students attending establishments of further education. In particular instances, children under the age of 13 years could avail of vaccination.

The local response was reasonably satisfactory in view of the fact that the scheme has been in operation only since October 1957. The evidence recently published of the result of the Trials in this country should encourage the response for vaccination, as it is confidently established that the vaccine conferred a substantial degree of protection against tuberculosis in all its forms. This is in accord with the evidence of other countries which have been widely using the vaccine for a much longer period than here and should make the vaccination response worthy of the battle being waged against the disease.

At one school following the discovery of a case of pulmonary tuberculosis in a pupil, the parental consent of pupils considered as contacts was sought to have skin tests done, and, where results suggested the advisability, to have X Ray examinations carried out. It is a pleasure to record that all except one of the 127 parents concerned gave immediate consent to the investigation, and tribute must also be paid to the entire teaching staff of the school who agreed to X Ray examination to eliminate them as potential sources of infection.

Medical Inspection of School Children.

The number of children examined in the local schools, other than private establishments, was 1390, which number included supervisory and special examinations. Out of the 775 examined in the prescribed groups only 21 were assessed as being of sub-standard general nutrition, which reflects the high nutritional level obtaining these days in the local school population. The improvement in home care and the school milk and meal services share in these happy results.

The defects found in the special group examinations numbered 200 approximately, which included 38 requiring to be sent forward for treatment or special investigation. The remainder comprised defects, new, or existing from previous examinations, which required to be kept under supervision.

The attendance of parents at the inspection of children at the infant and junior schools was as satisfactory as it was disappointing at the senior schools. Unfortunately, many pupils at secondary schools succeed in discouraging parental attendance because of the implied reflection on their adult status, though the presence of the parent is just as important at this as at the earlier medical examination since it provides a fruitful opportunity for doctor and parent to discuss matters affecting the senior child's health and welfare.

Tuberculosis : New Cases and Mortality during 1959.

Age Period (years)	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0						
1		I				
5						
15	3					
25	I					
35						
45	I			I		
55						
65+						
TOTALS	5	I	—	—	I	—	—	—

The pulmonary notifications were the same in number as the previous year but there were no cases notified involving other organs. The only unusual factor about these notifications was that three of them occurred in the same family. The single death from the disease was in the later age groups.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

Remarks under this heading will be confined to brief comments because, as in the previous year, the senior public health inspector kindly supplied at my request the report of the field work carried out by his department, which is a separate inclusion.

Sample Examinations.

As the examination of samples provides a fairly reliable index of the success of measures adopted for controlling the safety of water and food-stuffs, liberal use continued to be made of the free laboratory facilities available to guide our efforts. The laboratory results are supplied to me in the minimum time, and particularly so in the case of unsatisfactory samples, which allows of timely investigation being made when the necessity arises.

Checks on the public water supply were made by taking two samples weekly for bacteriological examination and observing the reading of residual chlorine at the time of sampling. Less frequently, examination of the supplies from the small number of houses not on the public mains was carried out, and check examinations were done, as indicated, of the water used in swimming baths.

Up to now, only a vague guess could be made about the number of houses in the Borough without an interior water supply, but as the result of ascertainment by the senior public health inspector, one is surprised to learn that there are as many as 400 houses, which will probably remain outside the slum clearance proposals, without this amenity. As an interior water supply is laid down as one of the essentials of houses fitness, a drive to rectify the omission, where practical, seems indicated, even if recourse should require to be made to the Council's powers to effect this.

We had reason to be satisfied with the result of the examinations of the samples of milk, fresh cream, ice cream and other commodities submitted during the year, because of their consistent satisfactory standard. It was considered worth while to have a special investigation into the possible extent of contamination of pig and other carcase meat by organisms of the food poisoning type on account of the evidence found elsewhere associating this meat with outbreaks of food poisoning. We had 200 specimens of glands from pig carcasses, sausage meat, pigs' feeding stuff and veal examined of which only 12 of the specimens of glands from pigs were found positive for various organisms of the food-poisoning type; and this was better than expected.

Housing - Slum Clearance.

Seven small Clearance Areas containing twenty six houses were officially represented during the year. These included the remaining houses in the Gatherums, which will later enable the Corporation to secure the redevelopment of the whole of this area, with the knowledge that its central position gives it advantages as a housing site, which should outweigh any of its other shortcomings. Indeed, the scarcity of centrally placed sites for rehousing resulting from, or likely to result from, the clearing of areas of sub-standard properties suggests the necessity for giving prime consideration in these cases to the possibility of their use as sites for rehousing.

I am in full agreement with the views of both the senior public health inspector and the housing manager that the initial five year programme, which is now nearing completion, will result in only a part of the problem being solved in this field. At the time the original slum clearance programme was presented, several border line groups and individual houses were temporarily excluded in the hope that owners might take advantage of the Improvement Grant provisions to modernise them. That was over five years ago, and recent surveys showed the increased deterioration affecting the majority of these, which puts them now in the category of the hopelessly unfit. All this bears on the need for future house building plans to match the existing and future obligations. The remarks in the housing manager's report about this question are also worth noting.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF LOUTH.

The Medical Officer of Health has requested me to report to you on the environmental services for the year 1959 as I did for 1958.

The services of an additional health inspector for a full year has made possible an increase in routine inspection of food premises, an increase in the inspection of houses and has enabled the increasing demands of meat inspection to be met at the present time. Even so, any matter which requires immediate attention such as investigation of infection, can only be done at the expense of routine work and the introduction of any new project would have the like result.

At this point I wish to thank the Medical Officer of Health and the other Officers and Staff of the Corporation for their help during the year.

Detailed comments on the various services are given below.

J. BROCKLEBANK.

Senior Public Health Inspector.

WATER SUPPLY

Public Supply.

102 samples of water were taken from taps within the Borough during the year. In all but four cases these samples were reported to be of excellent bacteriological standard. Nine samples were taken from the bores and the reservoir to find the cause of the unsatisfactory samples. This was shown to be due to the condition of the open service reservoir to which reference has been made in earlier reports.

An increase in the residual chlorine in the water in the service reservoir remedied the trouble.

Private Supplies.

Seventeen samples were taken from bores and pumps supplying fourteen houses for which there is no main supply. Thirteen samples were reported to be satisfactory.

The water from one of the unsatisfactory bores continues to be chlorinated. The other bore serves an unoccupied house for which satisfactory arrangements will have to be made before re-occupation.

Piped Water Supplies to Houses.

A Survey carried out during the year showed that there were 499 houses in the Borough without an internal piped water supply. 48 of these houses were in areas which had been represented as clearance areas and some others were houses likely to be dealt with under the Housing Acts in the future. There are, therefore, about four hundred houses without an internal supply of water, which are likely to remain in use for a number of years. This indicates the need for the systematic installation of an internal supply in appropriate cases, using if necessary the statutory powers which the Council already possesses.

Swimming Bath.

Regular visits were paid to the Corporation Swimming Bath to check the efficiency of the chlorination. On every occasion it was found to be satisfactory. Samples which were taken for bacteriological examination were all reported to be satisfactory.

Advice was also given on the method of chlorination of a school swimming bath where chlorination by hand was carried out. Tests made during visits of inspection and samples submitted for laboratory examination showed that chlorination was satisfactory.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION, SEWERAGE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Closets, Cesspools and Septic Tanks.

There has been no reduction in the number of privies, pail closets and cesspools during the year, and there appears to be no possibility of it in the near future.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The Borough Surveyor reports as follows :—
“A tender has now been accepted for the laying of surface water sewers in the Springside and Spa Lane areas and it is anticipated that work will commence early in 1960. The effect of these schemes will reduce the infiltration of surface and underground water into the main sewers and until the schemes are completed and the full effect known it will not be possible to finalize the design of the disposal works at Alvingham”.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

A weekly collection of house refuse was maintained during the year. Disposal of the refuse was by means of controlled tipping at the London Road site.
The weight of cardboard and paper salvaged amounted to 190 tons, an increase of 30 tons over the previous year. This increase is likely to continue due to the present fashion of packaging in the retail trade.

Nuisances.

The following table shows the numbers and types of nuisances which were dealt with during the year without the service of statutory notices.
More than half of the total nuisances were drainage defects which indicates the poor condition of drainage systems generally in the older part of the town.

Refuse	....	....	....	....	....	12
Foul ditches, ponds etc.	....	....	....	....	....	1
Drainage	....	....	....	....	....	51
Poultry and animals	...	....	....	....	....	3
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	....	23
						—
						90
						—

Rodent Control.

The rodent operative continued to make regular surveys for the detection of rat and mouse infestations and to treat infested premises. 753 premises were surveyed during the year and 143 premises were treated.

The use of an anti coagulant poison for treating sewer infestations has been continued, with the result that a further reduction of the rat population in the sewers has taken place.

If there were more manholes on the older sewers in the centre of the town, a greater measure of control could be obtained.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948.

1937 and 1940.

Inspections PREMISES (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c. line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	14	6	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not in- cluded in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	103	36	—	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	1	2	—	—	3
TOTAL		118	44	—	—	

HOUSING.

TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING YEAR

(1) By the Local Authority ....	....	....	....	....	....	Nil
(2) By other Local Authorities ....	....	....	....	....	....	Nil
(3) By other bodies or persons ....	....	....	....	....	....	8
(4) Number allocated for replacing houses subject to Demolition Orders	....	....	....	....	....	Nil

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ....	....	80
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ....	....	387

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.

4

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

(I) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 2 |
| (b) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— | |
| (i) by owners | Nil |
| (ii) by local authority in default of owners | 2 |

SLUM CLEARANCE—PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses included in confirmed Clearance Orders | 13 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance thereof | 16 |
| (3) Houses demolished or closed voluntarily by owner which would otherwise have been the subject of statutory action to secure demolition or closure. | 2 |
| (4) Estimated number of dwellings, excluding those under paragraph (4) above remaining to be dealt with under | |
| (a) The Housing Act, 1957, Section 16 and 18. | 10 |
| (b) The Housing Act, 1957, Section 42. | *40 |

HOUSING ACTS, 1949-59.

Number of dwellings for which application for grants have been received :—

- | | |
|------------------------------|----|
| (a) Standard Grant | 3 |
| (b) Discretionary Grant | 12 |

Number of dwellings subject to grant :—

- | | |
|------------------------------|----|
| (a) Standard Grant | 3 |
| (b) Discretionary Grant | 15 |

*Includes supplementary Clearance programme to be prepared.

During the year sixteen houses and some adjoining buildings in Clearance Areas were demolished, thirteen of which were in the Maiden Row Clearance Area, where at the end of the year six houses are still standing. This slow progress may be desirable from some points of view, but the delay in providing a cleared site for redevelopment must also delay the rehousing of people who have already lived too long in unfit houses.

Schedules were prepared for the slum clearance areas dealt with during the year according to the agreed programme.

There are few areas now left to be dealt with of the original programme adopted by the Council five years ago, but it is obvious that the completion of the number will not eliminate the unfit properties in Louth. There will still exist a hard core of sub-standard dwellings, which will indicate the need for the continuation of a planned slum clearance programme to deal with the worst houses and the improvement of the best in this group by encouraging the use of Standard Grants.

Fifteen houses were improved during the year with the help of Discretionary Grants and three with Standard Grants. By far the greater part of this assistance still goes to owner-occupied houses and little, or none, to rented houses.

Every means should be employed to persuade property owners to take advantage of these grants so that where ever possible suitable houses are improved and kept in use, rather than being allowed to deteriorate and ultimately have to be dealt with as totally unfit.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Premises—Food Hygiene Regulations 1955.

It was found possible during the year under review to increase the number of inspections of food premises to a total of 446 visits. Thirty nine contraventions of the regulations were noted during visits and were remedied informally.

On one occasion seven contraventions were noted in one food premises. This was reported to the Public Health Committee who decided that a warning should be issued in this case.

Classification of Food Premises.

The numbers and types of the various food premises in the Borough are shown below.

Bake houses	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
Bakers and Confectioners Shops	....	....	....	....	....	....	8
Meat Products Factories	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
Butchers	....	....	....	....	....	....	20
Catering Establishments	....	....	....	....	....	....	14
Ice cream Manufacturers	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Fried Fish Shops	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
Poulterers	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
Greengrocers	....	....	....	....	....	....	8
Sweets and Confectionery	....	....	....	....	....	....	17
Grocers and General	....	....	....	....	....	....	49
Wet Fish Shops	....	....	....	....	....	....	4

Milk Supplies.

Registered Distributors :—

Sterilised	....	....	....	....	....	....	26
Pasteurised	....	....	....	....	....	....	8
Tuberculin Tested	....	....	....	....	....	....	21

Sampling—Milk (Special Designations) Regulations

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised	30	Nil
T.T.	12	1

Ice Cream

Number of premises registered for manufacture	....	....	....	1
Number of premises registered for sale	....	....	....	57

SAMPLING

Grade 1	....	....	....	....	....	....	22
Grade 2	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
Grade 3	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
Grade 4	....	....	....	....	....	....	Nil

MEAT INSPECTION.

DETAILS OF CARCASSES INSPECTED 1959.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	1576	196	63	12050	14809
Number inspected	1576	196	63	12050	14809
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcase condemned	11	26	4	133	31
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	189	49	3	211	214
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci	12.6	38.3	11	2.98	14.5
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	5	3	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	63	19	—	—	218
Percentage of the number of inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.3	11.2	—	—	1.5
Cysticercosis					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	1	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—

Although the number of cattle inspected was less than in 1958, the number of sheep inspected exceeded the 1958 figure by almost eight thousand. This work took up more of the inspector's time than in the previous year.

There has been a steady increase in the amount of meat inspection during the last five years, and there is little to indicate that this trend will not continue.

Slaughtering is still carried out in some slaughterhouses in the evenings and on Saturday afternoons and Sundays, making it necessary for inspection to be done at those times. The cause of this seems to be the shortage of trained slaughtermen rather than lack of premises, as there are now seven slaughterhouses operating in the town.

This gives rise to the situation where slaughterhouses and equipment remain unused during the day with animals awaiting slaughter, until the evening when slaughtermen, who have already done a normal day's work, are available.

From the public health point of view a reduction in the number of slaughterhouses and the provision of two or three modern, properly equipped ones, would be eminently desirable.

Although economics are outside the province of this report it does not seem altogether a good thing from the economic aspect that so much capital should be tied up in buildings and equipment which are so little used.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE (HYGIENE) REGULATIONS 1958.

Slaughterhouse Report.

A meeting was held in May 1959, to which slaughterhouse occupiers, butchers and others concerned in the meat trade were invited to discuss the Slaughterhouses Act 1958, and the Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations 1958. Later in the year detailed inspections of slaughterhouses were made, usually in the company of the owners or their representatives. Afterwards the slaughterhouse owners were informed how far their premises fell below the standards set by the Regulations and were requested to formulate schemes of improvement so that these could be incorporated in the Slaughterhouse Report which the Council must submit to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. At the time of writing no proposals have been received although a number of schemes are being prepared.

Fly Control in Slaughterhouses.

During the summer months the Corporation arranged for offal bins and manure bays at slaughterhouses to receive a daily application of an insecticidal dust and a monthly treatment with a contact insecticide at the expense of the slaughterhouse occupiers. This, in spite of the hot summer, reduced fly infestation to a considerable degree. It is proposed to continue this service in the future.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF LOUTH.

The Medical Officer of Health has requested that I should give some details of the rehousing aspect of the Slum Clearance Programme and I am pleased to do so.

During the year 35 casual vacancies occurred and of these 9 were allocated to Slum Clearance families. The remaining 26 vacancies were used to carry out 20 Transfers and Exchanges and this allowed 46 families to be rehoused in suitably sized dwellings.

No new dwellings were completed during the year.

Although the proportion of Slum Clearance cases rehoused was comparatively high, in view of the circumstances, the proportion should be higher during 1960, with the completion of some 32 dwellings. Transfers from existing Council Houses will again be used to see that the Slum Clearance cases are rehoused in dwellings suitable to their particular family requirements.

The greatest deficiency at the present time is for small dwellings for older people within easy reach of the town, and the Council's decision to rebuild on Maiden Row, providing a grouped welfare scheme for this purpose, is a first and very necessary step in providing this type of accommodation.

A further 30 dwellings are proposed on various sites on the Eastfield Road estate and these too will be suitable for the requirements of many of the Slum Clearance families.

Even so it should be pointed out that if all the projected building were completed by the end of 1961, some sixteen families would require to be rehoused to complete the Council's present Slum Clearance programme.

In considering the housing requirements of Slum Clearance families.... it should not be overlooked that of the 144 cases on the Housing Waiting List at the end of the year a high proportion were housed in damp and insanitary houses just above the Slum Clearance standard.

As such cases do not normally command a high number of points, it seems that the occupants of these houses will have to wait a considerable time for rehousing.

I would, therefore, support any action intended to widen the scope of the second phase of the Council's Slum Clearance programme, and would emphasise that only by continuing clearance close to the centre of the town can new sites be provided for housing re-development and other services.

L. COPLAND.

Housing Manager.

J. H. EYRE, PRINTER, MARKET RASEN

